

REMARKS

In the office action dated December 2, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6-8, and 10-12 under 35 U.S. 102(b) as anticipated by one of U.S. Patent No. 5,645,118 to Legarde and U.S. Patent No. 5,103,888 to Nakamura. The office action also indicated that claims 4, 5, and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

It is submitted that by these amendments claims 4 and 9 have been rewritten in independent form as suggested by the Examiner and are therefore allowable. Specifically, claim 4 has been amended to include the features of claims 1 and 3, and claim 9 has been amended to include the features of claims 1, 6 and 8. Claims 1-3, 6-8, and 10-12 have been cancelled. Accordingly claims 4 and 9, as amended are allowable. Claim 5, which depends from claim 4, is allowable therewith.

In the event that the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where in the reference, there is the basis for a contrary view.

The Examiner has apparently made of record, but not applied, several documents. The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's implicit finding that these documents, whether considered alone or in combination with others, do not render the claims of the present application unpatentable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable over the prior art, and early and favorable consideration thereof is solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fee that may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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